

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A catheter comprising:

an elongated body extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the body having a first wall and a second wall that define at least one lumen, the first wall including at least one  
5 outwardly extending ridge,

wherein the at least one ridge defines a lateral opening in the first wall that extends to the distal end of the body.

2. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the first wall and the second wall define a first lumen and a second lumen that extend along the body.

10 3. A catheter as recited in claim 2, wherein the first lumen includes an inlet port disposed adjacent the lateral opening and the second lumen includes an outlet port disposed adjacent the distal end of the body.

4. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the first wall and the second wall define a first lumen, a second lumen and a third lumen such that the second wall includes a first inner  
15 catheter wall that is disposed between the first lumen and the second lumen, a second inner catheter wall that is disposed between the second lumen and the third lumen, and a third inner catheter wall that is disposed between the third lumen and the first lumen.

5. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one ridge includes a pair of ridges extending from the first wall to define the lateral opening.

6. A catheter as recited in claim 5, wherein the pair of ridges define an angle with the second wall of less than 90°.

7. A catheter as recited in claim 5, wherein the pair of ridges are configured and spaced apart to support a body vessel such that occlusion of the at least one lumen is  
5 substantially prevented.

8. A catheter as recited in claim 5, wherein the at least one lumen includes an inlet port that cooperates with the pair of ridges such that at least a portion of the lateral opening has a helical configuration.

9. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one ridge includes a plurality  
10 of lateral channels.

10. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the first wall defines a plurality of side openings.

11. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the lateral opening is further defined by a port defined by the at least one lumen, the port having a first end and a second end, the port  
15 extending across the first wall such that the distance between the first end of the port and the distal end of the body is less than the distance between the second end of the port and the distal end of the body.

12. A catheter as recited in claim 1, wherein the lateral opening is further defined by a port defined by the at least one lumen, the port having a first end and a second end, the port  
20 extending across the first wall such that the distance between the first end of the port and the

distal end of the body is substantially equal to the distance between the second end of the port and the distal end of the body.

13. A catheter comprising:

an elongated body extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the body having an  
5 outer wall and an inner wall that define a first lumen having a first port, and a second lumen having a second port, that extend along the body, the outer wall including a plurality of ridges outwardly extending from the outer wall and being disposed adjacent to the first port of the first lumen,

wherein the plurality of ridges define a lateral opening in the outer wall that extends to  
10 the distal end of the body, the plurality of ridges being configured and spaced apart to support a body vessel such that occlusion of the first lumen and the second lumen is prevented.

14. A catheter as recited in claim 13, wherein the lateral opening is further defined by the first port of the first lumen, the first port having a first end and a second end, the first port extending across the outer wall such that the distance between the first end of the first port and  
15 the distal end of the body is less than the distance between the second end of the first port and the distal end of the body.

15. A catheter as recited in claim 13, wherein said lateral opening is further defined by the first port of the first lumen, the first port having a first end and a second end, the first port extending across the outer wall such that the distance between the first end of the first port and  
20 the distal end of the body is substantially equal to the distance between the second end of the first port and the distal end of the body.

16. A catheter as recited in claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of ridges forms an angle with the inner catheter wall of less than 90°.

17. A catheter as recited in claim 13, wherein the first port of the first lumen includes an inlet port that cooperates with the pair of ridges such that at least a portion of the lateral opening has a helical configuration.

18. A catheter as recited in claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of ridges includes a plurality of lateral channels.

19. A catheter as recited in claim 13, wherein the outer wall and the inner wall further define a third lumen, the first lumen being separated from the second lumen by a first inner catheter wall, the second lumen being separated from the third lumen by a second inner catheter wall and the third lumen being separated from the first lumen by a third inner catheter wall.

20. A catheter comprising:  
an elongated body extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the body having an outer wall and an inner wall that define a first lumen having a first port, a second lumen having a second port and a third lumen having a third port such that the inner wall includes a first inner catheter wall that is disposed between the first lumen and the second lumen, a second inner catheter wall that is disposed between the second lumen and the third lumen, and a third inner catheter wall that is disposed between the third lumen and the first lumen,

the second wall including a pair of outwardly extending ridges being disposed adjacent to the first port of the first lumen, the pair of ridges cooperate with the first port of the first lumen to

define a lateral opening that extends to the distal end of the body, the lateral opening communicating within first lumen,

wherein the pair of ridges are configured and spaced apart to support a body vessel such that occlusion of the first lumen, the second lumen and the third lumen is substantially prevented.